

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John P. Musone, Reg. No. 44,961 on 10/09/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims

In claim 9, line 5, after "renovating", "the" has been changed to --a--.

In claim 10, "1" has been changed to --9--.

In claim 11, "1" has been changed to --9--.

Claim 23 has been rewritten as follows:

23. (currently amended) A repaired gas turbine component which is at least partially made of a composite ceramic material, comprising:
a root portion;
a tip portion opposite the root portion;
an airfoil section arranged between the root and tip portions;
a repair section filled with a high strength single monobloc insert that is not a mat or a band where the edges of the repair section and the edges of the insert join smoothly and aerodynamically; wherein a ceramic matrix of the component is restored or renovating by infiltration.

Claim 24 has been canceled.

In claim 25, line 1, “24” has been changed to --23--.

In the Specification

In the abstract, in the third sentence, “Said” has been changed to --The abovementioned--.

The above changes were made to put the claims in allowable condition.

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant application is deemed to be directed to a non-obvious improvement over the invention patented in Pat. No. 6,575,702. The improvements are method steps of dissolving a joint of the component and renovating a ceramic matrix of the component and restoring the joint. In another embodiment the improvements are the method steps of restoring or renovating the ceramic matrix of the component by infiltration, and sintering the component by overfiring the operating gas turbine. In yet another embodiment, the improvement is a repaired gas turbine component in which the ceramic matrix of the component is restored or renovated by infiltration.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Prior Art

The prior art made of record but not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure and consists of 2 patents.

Rowe et al. (5,522,134) and Cretella et al. (4,141,127) are cited to show different repaired turbine components.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Ninh Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4823. The examiner can be normally reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Look, can be reached at (571) 272-4820. The fax number for this group is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, please go to <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov> or contact the Electronic Business center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Ninh H. Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3745

Nhn
10/14/08